

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 001739

FOLLOWING REPEAT MONTEVIDEO 0042 ACTION SECSTATE 04 JAN 78

QUOTE

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 0042

FOR USOAS

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: OAS, UY

SUBJ: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MONTEVIDEO

1. BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT "EL PAIS" AND NATIONALISTIC
"LA MANANA" GAVE PROMINENT PLAY IN THEIR JANUARY 4
MORNING EDITIONS TO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON SPECULA-
TING ON THE OUTCOME OF URUGUAY'S BID TO HOST THE
OAS GA.

2. "LA MANANA" FRONT PAGED A UPI REPORT UNDER A FIVE-
COLUMN HEADING, "OAS MIGHT ACCEPT MEETING IN
URUGUAY". ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, "DIPLOMATIC
OBSERVERS" WERE SAID TO DOUBT THAT THE UNITED STATES
"CAN SUCCEED IN OBTAINING THE SUPPORT OF SEVEN
OTHER COUNTRIES TO ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST URUGUAY
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WHEN THE COUNCIL TAKES UP ITS OFFER".

3. THE UPI REPORT CITED THESE SOURCES AS STATING
THAT "MEXICO SAID IT MIGHT VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE
URUGUAYAN OFFER AND THAT VENEZUELA, IN SPITE OF NOT
HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY, WOULD SEEK
A SIMILAR SOLUTION AS A WAY OF CREATING A CLIMATE

FOR THE POSSIBLE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS".

4. "ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCES," THE UPI CABLE CONTINUED "IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES, (WHICH IS) BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN URUGUAY, COULD COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF JAMAICA AND BARBADOS, AT THE MOST."

5. "EL PAIS" PUBLISHED AN AP REPORT BY ARY MOLEON, ON PAGE 7, UNDER A BANNER HEADING, "VANCE MIGHT BOYCOTT OAS MEETING IN MONTEVIDEO" AND SUBHEADED, "WASHINGTON REPORTED LACKING VOTES".

6. ACCORDING TO THE AP DISPATCH, IF THE ASSEMBLY WERE HELD IN MONTEVIDEO, "IT WOULD LEAD TO ANGRY DEBATES ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WOULD ONLY DISTORT THE ESSENCE OF THE MEETING." THE AP REPORT ADDED THAT "VENEZUELA MIGHT BE WILLING TO DENOUNCE HERE WHAT IT CONSIDERS 'FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS'" BY THE GOU AND SPECULATED FURTHER THAT "THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD ABSTAIN FROM PARTICIPATING SOLELY BECAUSE THE MEETING IS HELD IN MONTEVIDEO."

7. "EL PAIS" CALLED THE AP CABLE "CONFUSED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MANY ASPECTS" AND SAID IT "PUT INTO THE MOUTH OF OAS AMBASSADOR ALBERTO ROCA A RECOGNITION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A PROBLEM" AND CALLED THIS "NOTHING MORE THAN SPECULATION" THE PAPER CONCLUDED ITS FIRST PARAGRAPH SUMMARY BY STATING THAT THE REST OF THE DISPATCH "IS THE EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WRITER OF THE ANNOYING CABLE".

8. SIGNIFICANTLY, PRESTIGIOUS INDEPENDENT "EL DIA", WHICH SUBSCRIBES TO UPI, DID NOT PUBLISH ANYTHING. PEZZULLO UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".

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